

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1214

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kathryn Marjorie Crowell Michener of Kingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Kathryn Marjorie Crowell Michener; and

WHEREAS, Kathryn Michener, known as “Kay,” was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Wallkill, New York, to John and Georgiana Crowell on January 4, 1915, Kay Michener earned her undergraduate degrees from St. Petersburg Junior College and the Columbia Teacher College, located in Florida and New York respectively. She then matriculated to the University of Michigan, from which she earned her master’s degree in psychology; and

WHEREAS, it was while attending the University of Michigan that Kay met Larry Michener at a Victoria dance; the two would later marry and share sixty years of wedded bliss together before Mr. Michener’s death in 2001; and

WHEREAS, the couple moved to Oak Ridge in 1943, and soon thereafter, Mrs. Michener, a gifted and thoughtful educator, embarked on her long and storied career in education. She became the first accredited special education teacher in Roane County in 1957 and taught at Kingston Elementary, Fairview, Cherokee, and Emory Heights schools before taking a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, during those retirement years, Kay Michener traveled extensively with her husband, making friends wherever she went. She was an inspiration and comfort to all she met, and she was always known to have an open kitchen and open home; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in the importance of community and civic involvement, Kay Michener held membership in a number of organizations, including the Fort Southwest Point DAR, '43 Club of Oak Ridge, Republican Women's Club, Rotary Club, the RCRTA, the St. Andrew's Society, and the Huguenot Society of New Paltz, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Michener was an active and devout member of the Bethel Presbyterian Church, which she served for many years. She was a founding member of the church's Prison Ministry; and

WHEREAS, she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Kay Michener will be sorely missed by her daughters, Mariana Oonk, Berty Brown, Cathy Wacksman, Martha Chandler, and Laura Lee Stephenson; her grandchildren, Anneke Oonk, Michael Oonk, Milara Oonk, Jimmy Wacksman, Georgiana Wacksman, Kathryn Isted, Robert Stephenson, Roberta Haeffle, and Polk Brown; her seven great-grandchildren; her brother, Robert Crowell; and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Michener leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kathryn Marjorie Crowell Michener, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Michener.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.